

Mr. Chairman, the Farr Substitute sets a voluntary spending limit of \$600,000 for each two-year election cycle. It also contains related limitations on large donors, political action committees and the use of personal funds. As important, the Farr Substitute provides candidates with direct, tangible public benefits. The 50% reduction in broadcast rates and reduced postal rates proposed in this measure give office seekers a real incentive to voluntarily limit campaign spending.

Mr. Chairman, the Farr Substitute represents the next stage in campaign finance reform. I ask my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to join the gentleman from California and me in sending a resounding message of support for continuing and deepening the reform process by voting in favor of the Farr Substitute.

THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves towards consideration of this year's foreign operations budget, I would like to draw your attention to a highly successful international development program that benefits from federal funding dollars and which operates out of my district in Baltimore: Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

CRS is the official overseas relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in the United States.

CRS assists persons on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality. Its first mission provided food and shelter for World War II refugees. In the 1960s, while continuing to respond to emergencies, the agency began to look for ways to help the poor overcome poverty, particularly in newly independent and developing countries. Emphasis shifted to the promotion of new farming techniques, loans for small business, and health and water projects. The projects were designed to provide hope and dignity by allowing the poor to determine their own future and rise out of poverty.

As the agency looks to the millennium with programs operating throughout the developing world, peace-building and reconciliation, gender responsive programs, the development and strengthening of civil society are active parts of its work in the promotion of social justice in the countries in which it works.

The policies and programs of the agency reflect a philosophy of working in ways that maximize and optimize the resources, expertise and talent that may be brought to bear on the solution of the problems of the poor and disenfranchised.

CRS has programs focusing on education, emergency assistance, enterprise development, food security, health, human rights, peace-building and reconciliation and welfare.

Long-term solutions to the problems of injustice and underdevelopment are fostered by over 2,000 development and reconstruction projects. These projects promote food security through production, access and utilization; improve health care; develop water/sanitation systems; address deforestation problems; enable poor women to start small businesses;

stabilize the environment; create village banks, and provide vocational/agricultural/health care training. Integration of these strategies in all CRS programs operating in potential conflict areas is a major thrust for the agency.

In the CRS sponsored Small Enterprise Development programs, for example, nearly 90 percent of the entrepreneurs participating in these programs are women.

These programs foster financial independence and sustainable development at the grassroots level. CRS involves the beneficiaries in the operation of the program. Participants manage the loan portfolio and ensure savings are accrued and invested. For most, it is the first chance to participate on an equal footing with men in their societies.

While the obvious beneficiaries of these programs are the women entrepreneurs, beneficiaries also include the next generation. CRS has found that women who participate in the program spend a portion of their earnings on the health and education of their children—needs that otherwise would not have been met. Therefore, for example, girls who would not have attended school are now students. The benefits of literacy as a determinate of good health, income and agricultural productivity have been proven time and time again around the world. The benefits for the women of the future are innumerable.

Another value of this program is the savings generated. CRS has helped entrepreneurs participating in these programs to save an average of more than \$250 per person. In countries where people live on \$1 day, this is the difference between surviving a crop failure, drought or flood or becoming a refugee in search of relief aid.

The Small Enterprise Development program is but one excellent example of the programs sponsored by CRS around the world with the help of our federal funding. I ask my colleagues to please remember CRS, its programs and its dedicated headquarters staff working in my district, when they vote on international development funding in the foreign operations spending bill in September.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, talk about "deja vu all over again." It seems I have been here many times before, speaking out on Campaign Finance Reform. By now, I hope all my colleagues believe that after all the hours of debate in the past several weeks that we have fully explored this issue in the House of Representatives.

My concerns with reforming the system remain as they were the previous times I stated my views. Our campaign financing laws need improvement, but I do not agree with taxpayer

financing of campaigns nor limits on political speech. Increased disclosure will cure many ills in the system; and there are other reforms needed also.

During consideration of Campaign Finance Reform over the past several weeks, I have again to require at least half of a federal candidate's campaign funds come from the state in which he runs. I have voted to make individual's contributions as important as those of political action committees. I have voted to make sure that only citizens vote and that only citizens can make campaign contributions. I have voted to ban soft money in federal campaigns. I have voted for increased and more timely disclosure of campaign contributions. I have voted to ensure that a wealthy candidate cannot use his personal funds to buy an election in a contest with a candidate with limited personal funds. And I have voted against any attempt to limit citizens' right to political speech. None of this is new to my constituents in Southern Arizona; I've made these same points numerous times.

In the final analysis, it is up to the integrity of the candidates and to the vigilance of our citizens to ensure fair and honest elections. No matter how many laws we pass, there is always a weak spot that can be exploited by those who will.

Today, I cast my vote both for the "freshman bill" and for the Doolittle bill because, those two most closely reflect the changes I believe will improve our system. Neither is the total answer, but voting for the Shays-Meehan Bill goes against everything I believe in terms of preserving freedom of political speech. I may not like the fact that groups can "attack" me any more than I like having people burn the flag. But freedom to band together to criticize elected officials is a right that should not be taken away. The Supreme Court has already ruled on where the limits lie and I do not think we need to further limit speech. Nor can the advocates of Shays-Meehan expect the public to take seriously their effort when, in order to keep their coalition intact, they rejected all efforts to include in their reforms the largest single player on the political scene—labor unions.

In retrospect, we should probably look to creating a Commission with the powers given the Military Base Closing Commission. Since Congress has 535 "experts" in running campaigns, it may take something like that to enact reasonable, constitutional reforms.

H.R. 1865, SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS ACT

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the action of the House early this morning in passing H.R. 1865, the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act.

The bill is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado, Mr. MCINNIS, and also by our colleague Ms. DEGETTE. I greatly appreciate their support, and in particular all Mr. MCINNIS has done to make it possible for the House to consider the bill today.

I also want to thank the gentlewoman from Idaho who chairs the Subcommittee and her